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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE ACT TO REGULATE COMMERCE, CONSTRUED BY THE SUPREME COURT. By Hubert Bruce Fuller. Pp. x and 585. Washington: John Byrne & Co., 1915.

There is abundant room for just such a book upon the Interstate Commerce Act as that which Mr. Fuller has written. It serves admirably as a book for first reference. In ignoring the many decisions which have been rendered by the Commission itself and by the lower courts and concentrating his attention upon the decisions of the court of last resort the author has been able to bring out clearly the best settled interpretations of that important statute, and he has had at his disposal a sufficient mass of material to justify him in so restricting the scope of his work.

In a preliminary essay there is a brief sketch of the history of the commerce clause, showing its origin and the bearing which it had upon rate regulation. The Interstate Commerce Act is then printed section by section, including even the amendment of 1915. Each portion of it is discussed at length, and there are extensive notes which not only state the decisions of the United States Supreme Court but which quote from the opinions of that court much more fully than would be possible if the book covered all of the cases which have arisen under the Act. The rules of practice before the Commission are set forth at the end of the volume.

The book is so printed as to be unnecessarily bulky; it shows no marked amount of original thought; and it contains no reference whatever to the decisions of the Commission or of the lower courts, so that it will not by itself in most cases be a sufficient source for authorities upon the statute with which it deals. The work which the author has undertaken, however, has on the whole been well done, and if the book is used simply for first reference it will prove decidedly valuable to all those who have occasion to consider the proper interpretation of the statute.

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THE SWISS CIVIL CODE. Translated by Robert D. Shick, of the Philadelphia Bar. Pp. lxxii and 262. Boston: The Boston Book Co., 1915.

This volume is the last official publication of the Comparative Law Bureau of the American Bar Association (Foreign Civil Code Series). It attempts to fill a regrettable gap in the English literature of foreign law; for, surprising as it may seem, the Swiss Civil Code has, all told, received in the almost eight years of its existence in its present form, but the briefest notice in a few legal bulletins and periodicals in this country and in England. Since this unification of Swiss law, because of the similarity of cantonal and American state autonomy, presents for us a profitable study in law making, the indifference of American legal science suggests reasons for reflection.

Our volume contains: (a) a foreword by W. W. Smithers, Esq., of the Philadelphia Bar, Secretary of the Comparative Law Bureau; (b) an historical introduction; (c) the text of the Code, and (d) an index.

The translation of the Swiss Civil Code was proposed by the late Charles Wetherill, Esq., of the Philadelphia Bar, and the work was entrusted in 1908 to the translator of our volume, whose American college degrees had been supplemented by legal studies pursued in Berlin. Annotations, mostly comparative, referring to German law, were undertaken by Charles Wetherill. The co-operation of Dr. Eugen Huber, drafter of the Code, and